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REGULATIONS

GOVERNING THE OCCUPANCY AND USE OF NATIONAL FOREST RECREATION SITES AND AREAS



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Regulations Governing the Occupancy and Use of National Forest Recreation Sites and Areas

The following rules and regulations have been made by the Secretary of Agriculture to increase the overall enjoyment of recreation in the National Forests. They are commonsense rules meant to control actions that cause damage to natural resources and facilities, as well as actions that cause unreasonable disturbance for National Forest visitors. Observance of these rules will make your visit and the visits of others, more pleasant and enjoyable.

The Secretary of Agriculture's regulations (36 CFR 291.1 through 291.8) provide for regulating the occupancy and use of (1) developed recreation sites, and (2) areas of concentrated public use. A violation of these regulations is subject to a penalty of not more than \$500 or 6 months imprisonment, or both.

291.2—Definitions. The following definitions shall apply to all regulations in sections 291.2 through 291.8:

- (a) The term "developed recreation sites" means all improved observation, swimming, boating, camping, and picnic sites.
- (b) The word "sites" refers to recreation sites.



(c) The term "areas of concentrated public recreation use" means those areas identified by a posted map delineating its boundaries.

(d) The word "areas" refers to areas of concentrated public recreation use.

(e) The term "camping equipment" includes tent or vehicle used to accommodate the camper, the vehicles used for transport, and the associated camping paraphernalia.

291.3—Applicability and scope. The regulations in sections 291.2 through 291.8 prescribe the proper use, management, government, and protection of, and maintenance of good order in, the sites and areas to which they apply on lands of the United States within the National Forest System.

The regulations in sections 291.2 through 291.8 apply to all persons entering, using, or visiting developed recreation sites or posted areas of concentrated public recreation use. A map delineating the boundaries of the areas of concentrated public recreation use shall be posted by the Forest Supervisor at each such area in such a manner as will reasonably bring them to the attention of the public.

291.4—Sanitation. The following acts are prohibited at developed recreation sites and posted areas of concentrated public recreation use.

(a) Failing to dispose of all garbage, including paper, cans, bottles, waste materials, and rubbish by removal from the site or area, or disposal at places provided for such disposition.

(b) Draining or dumping refuse or waste from any trailer or other vehicle except in places or receptacles provided for such uses.

(c) Cleaning fish or food, or washing clothing or articles of household use at hydrants or at water faucets located in restrooms.

(d) Polluting or contaminating water supplies or water used for human consumption.

(e) Depositing, except into receptacles provided for that purpose, any body waste in or on any portion of any comfort station or any public structure, or depositing any bottles, cans, cloths, rags, metal, wood, stone, or any other damaging substance in any of the fixtures in such stations or structures.

(f) Using refuse containers or other refuse facilities for dumping household or commercial garbage or trash brought as such from private property.



291.5—Public Behavior, Preservation of Public Property and Resources. The following acts are prohibited at developed recreation sites and posted areas of concentrated public recreation use.

(a) Inciting or participating in riots, or indulging in boisterous, abusive, threatening, or indecent conduct.

(b) Destroying, defacing, or removing any natural feature or plant.

(c) Destroying, injuring, defacing, removing, or disturbing in any manner any public building, sign, equipment, marker, or other structure or property.

(d) Selling or offering for sale any merchandise without the written consent of the Forest Supervisor.

(e) Distributing any handbills or circulars, or posting, placing, or erecting any bills, notices, papers, or advertising devices or matter of any kind without the written consent of the Forest Supervisor.

(f) Discharging firearms, firecrackers, rockets, or any other fireworks.

291.6—Audio Devices. The following acts are prohibited at developed recreation sites and posted areas of concentrated public recreation use.

(a) Operating or using any audio devices, including radio, television, and musical instruments, and other noise producing devices, such as electrical generator plants and equipment driven by motors or engines, in such a manner and at such times so as to disturb other persons.

(b) Operating or using public address systems, whether fixed, portable, or vehicle mounted, except when such use or operation has been approved by the Forest Supervisor in writing.

(c) Installing aerial or other special radio-telephone or television equipment unless approved by the Forest Supervisor in writing.

291.7—Occupancy of Developed Recreation Sites. The following acts are prohibited within developed recreation sites.

(a) Occupying a site for other than primarily recreation purposes.

(b) Entering or using a site or a portion of a site closed to public use. Notices establishing closure shall be posted in such locations as will reasonably bring them to the attention of the public.

(c) Erecting or using unsightly or inappropriate structures.

(d) Occupying a site with camping equipment prohibited by the Forest Supervisor. Notices establishing limitations on the kind or type of camping equipment shall be posted in such locations as will reasonably bring them to the attention of the public.

(e) Building a fire outside of stoves, grills, fireplaces, or outside of fire rings provided for such purpose.

(f) Camping overnight in places restricted to day use only.

(g) Before departure, failing to remove their camping equipment or to clean their rubbish from the place occupied by the person or persons.

(h) Pitching tents or parking trailers or other camping equipment except in places provided for such purposes.

(i) Camping within a campground for a longer period of time than that established by the Forest Supervisor. Notices establishing limitations on the period of time persons may camp within a campground shall be posted in such locations as will reasonably bring them to the attention of the public.

(j) Leaving a camp unit unoccupied during the first night after camping equipment has been set up, or leaving unattended camping equipment for more than 24 hours thereafter, without permission of a Forest Officer. Unattended camping equipment which is not removed within the prescribed time limit is subject to impoundment in accordance with the provisions of Section 261.16 of this Title.

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(k) Failing to maintain quiet in campgrounds between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

(l) Entering or remaining in campground closed during established night periods to persons other than those who occupy the campground for camping purposes or persons visiting those campers. Notices establishing the period of closure shall be posted in such locations as will reasonably bring them to the attention of the public.

(m) Bringing a dog, cat, or other animal into the site unless it is crated, caged, or upon a leash not longer than 6 feet, or otherwise under physical restrictive control at all times.

(n) Bringing animals, other than Seeing Eye dogs, to a developed swimming beach.

(o) Bringing saddle, pack, or draft animals into the site unless it has been developed to accomodate them and is posted accordingly.

291.8—Vehicles. The following are prohibited at developed recreation sites.

(a) Driving motor vehicles in excess of posted speeds.

(b) Driving or parking any vehicle or trailer except in places developed for this purpose.

(c) Driving any vehicle carelessly and heedlessly disregarding the rights or safety of others, or without due caution and at a speed, or in a manner, so as to endanger, or be likely to endanger, any person or property.

(d) Driving bicycles, motorbikes, and motorcycles on trails within developed recreation sites.

(e) Driving motorbikes, motorcycles, or other motor vehicles on roads in developed recreation sites for any purpose other than access into, or egress out of, the site.

(f) Operating a motor vehicle at any time without a muffler in good working order, or operating a motor vehicle in such a manner as to create excessive or unusual noise or annoying smoke, or using a muffler cutoff, bypass, or similar device.

(g) Excessively accelerating the engine of a motor vehicle or motorcycle when such vehicle is not moving or is approaching or leaving a stopping place.

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